

**Item 9 - Question Time**

To the Leader of the Council

“An urgent amendment to a Motion regarding the importance of retaining a Local Board for Highlands & Islands Enterprise was agreed at our last meeting. Have you had any success in carrying forward the action with the Ministers concerned?”

Response to Mr Prag

Following the Council meeting, I wrote to both the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work and the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Connectivity.

At the time of writing, I am waiting for substantive responses from them. However, I have recently had the opportunity of meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Economy and Connectivity and raised the Council’s concerns directly with him.

I have also written to all of the Highland MSPs and invited them to meet with me to discuss the Scottish Government’s proposals.

Finally, I have also raised this matter at the last COSLA Leaders meeting and with the Council Leaders in the Highlands and Islands.